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★ DEMONSTRATION OF 500,000 AMERICANS AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR
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NORTH VIETNAM

New U.S. Escalation in Haiphong *(April 20)* Duly Punished: 5 Aircraft Downed, Many Others Hit

UP TO APRIL 20 : **1,767 PLANES DOWNED**

SOUTH VIETNAM

- **BIEN HOA** *(April 2)*: **1,000 G.I.'s Put Out Of Action 200 Armoured Vehicles, 34 Aircraft, 30 Cannons Destroyed**
- **CAN THO** *(April 13)*: **400 Puppet Soldiers Killed**

SOUTH VIETNAM ARMY AND PEOPLE'S BIG SUCCESSES, U. S. AND QUISLINGS' HEAVY SETBACKS

by Lieutenant-General VAN TIEN DUNG

(Excerpts)

I — UNREMITTINGLY SHATTERING U.S. STRATEGIC PLANS, THE SOUTH VIETNAM ARMY AND PEOPLE HAVE CEASELESSLY MAINTAINED AND PROMOTED THEIR INITIATIVE, STRENGTH AND WINNING POSITION, THEREBY AGGRAVATING U.S. LOSS OF INITIATIVE, WEAKNESSES AND SETBACKS

BY embarking on a limited war of aggression, the Americans wanted to build up U.S. force rapidly and uninterruptedly, use U.S. and puppet troops as strategic forces with the former as the mainstay, carry out their counter-offensive strategy with a view to checking the wave of offensive of the South Vietnam army and people, wiping out regular L.A.F. units, regaining the initiative, turning the military tide and changing defeat into victory.

After the emergency despatch of GI's in the middle of 1965 — when the "special warfare" strategy had proved a failure — followed by a continuous flow of reinforcements, the U.S. command launched the first dry season strategic 1965-1966 counter-offensive with 200,000 U.S. soldiers, 30,000 satellite troops and 500,000 Saigon mercenaries. With such an important troop strength and great ambitions, they however sustained a bitter failure. In the momentum of their victory over the U.S. "special warfare" strategy, the South Vietnam army and people carried on their irresistible offensive, hitting hard at the GI's and bringing to nought the first U.S. strategic counter-offensive.

Significance and characteristics of the South Vietnam army and people's success and the enemy's failure :

— It was the first staggering blow dealt at the U.S. expeditionary forces which, over confident in their numerical superiority, big firepower and great mobility, showed great truculence.

— The Americans were unable to achieve their five strategic objectives, more particularly that aiming at "searching out the Vietcong to break their neck". To their utter surprise, instead of wiping out any single L.A.F. unit, they received blow after blow and lost whole companies, battalions and even task forces.

— U.S. setback and our success were both military and political, but essentially military. The capacity of the South Vietnam army and people of defeating them on the battlefield with military means had become a reality in the first trial of strength between the people's war and the U.S. limited war of aggression.

The fiasco of their first counter-offensive strategy had driven the U.S. and puppet troops into a tighter corner in terms of morale, effectives, structures and materials. Hence, at the beginning of the 1966 rainy season, the U.S.-puppet command was from the strategical point of view temporarily forced back into the defensive ; while preparing for a new strategic counter-offensive plan, it replenished troops and stepped up its build-up which finally ran to 300,000 G.I's, 40,000 satellite and 500,000 puppet troops. But, giving the enemy no respite, the South Vietnam army and people successfully and relentlessly attacked them whatever the season and upset thoroughly their plans.

The remarkable successes of the South Vietnam army and people during this rainy season were unpleasant surprises for the U.S.-and puppet troops :

— The rapid growth of the army and people in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces opened a new battlefield which upset the U.S. strategic battle array in the South Vietnam theatre and caused the U.S. command to hurriedly send troops there to cope with the new situation.

— Guerilla warfare in the plains, from Quang Tri and Thua Thien to Central Trung Bo and Nam Bo, made new headway, expanding evenly in all areas.

— After the serious political crisis resulting from the massive dispatch of GI's and the failure of the first U.S. strategic counter-offensive, the urban movement flared up again, particularly in the provinces of the first tactical zone. Developing in the military field as well as in the political field, it strongly hit enemy bases, depots and leading bodies.

— The South Vietnam army and people won resounding victories on land and river communications (Highways 13, 15, 1, 20, 4, the Long Tau River, the Dong Nai river...)

To face such a situation, the U.S. and puppet command had to scatter its troops more thinly than before ; from Quang Tri and Thua Thien to Ca Mau, the enemy was threatened in all areas, continually lacking troops in spite of reinforcements.

Such a situation paved the way to a bigger and all-sided U.S. and puppet

(Continued page 2)

The article **Fiasco of "Destruction" and "Pacification" operations** *published in our issue of April 17, 1967, was written by* **CUU LONG** *and broadcast over* Giai Phong Radio *in South Vietnam.*
Editor

Continued from page 1

army failure in the following strategic counter-offensive plan. Indeed, despite the commitment of about 1,000,000 troops — 500,000 GI's, 50,000 satellite troops, over 500,000 puppet troops — the second strategic U.S. counter-offensive during the 1966-1967 dry season was devoid of the fierceness which had marked the first counter-offensive plan. The Americans showed "caution" in strategic direction, operations and combats, in search and destroy actions as well as in "pacification" work. Formerly, Westmoreland had been able to launch a five-pronged "general counter-offensive" with 40,000 troops in the South Vietnam theatre. Now, in Tay Ninh area alone, he had to mount three successive large-scale operations — Operation *Junction City* in February 1967 with 45,000 men—only to arrive at the conclusion that they were "disappointing". Lieutenant General Jonathan Seaman commanding Operation *Junction City* was dismissed. The fate of the second strategic counter-offensive had been sealed.

The big military successes of the South Vietnam army and people were characterized by the following features :

— Growing ever more vigorously, the L.A.F. held the initiative. They forced a numerically superior enemy to spread his forces thin. They wiped them out not only in the plains but also in the mountains. They foiled enemy offensives aimed at "searching and destroying" their forces and destroying their rear (Tay Ninh, Plei Djrang). They put out of action an important part of enemy forces, the large scale combat tactics, combining large-unit actions with guerilla warfare to annihilate the enemy and defend the revolutionary bases.

Holding the initiative, the South Vietnam army and people launched offensives and counter-offensives; they fought off terrorist raids, rubbing and pacification operations in the plains, closely combining the annihilation of enemy forces with the protection of the people. They firmly maintained their initiative and extended the liberated areas.

The L.A.F. infiltrated deep into the enemy's rear, carrying out various tactics of the people's war; they attacked the enemy's bases, communications, towns and cities (Saigon, Hue, Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhat, Long Binh, Plei Ku, Da Nang, Tam Ky, on the Long Tau river...) they combined strikes against structures and materials with the annihilation of enemy forces, rear attacks with front attacks.

The development and results of the recent fierce and decisive test of strength shows that **the strategic offensive of the South Vietnam army and people are growing ever stronger; the South Vietnam Army and people continuing to promote their initiative, strength and winning position; the enemy keep obstinately increasing their troop strength, but their position of strategic counter-offensive grows weaker, their loss of the initiative, weaknesses and setbacks are aggravated.**

Despite U.S. ever increasing build up, the military offensive strategy of the South Vietnam army and people—relying on ever growing military and political forces and carrie it out in the initiative and in a strong and winning position is developing in accordance with the law of the people's war :

— From small operations, it can now mount unit operations, combining ever more closely small unit actions with large unit ones.

— From one sided it becomes many-sided, being more and more comprehensive.

It spreads from a few fronts to many fronts, from the mountains to the plains and the towns, from Nam Bo, Central Trung Bo, to Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces.

— From a few initial ones, the L.A.F. combat tactics increase to a great variety which is closely combined in each campaign each theatre to all theatres.

— The L.A.F. military offensive strategy has originated an ever stronger wave of offensives and an ever firmer strategic position, one success leading to another, their successes growing bigger and more frequent.

— The military offensive strategy is ever more closely combined with, and effectively helps, political actions and agitation work among enemy troops.

To carry out their counter-offensive strategy, the enemy keep beefing up their troop strength, and furthering every strategic plan. They have big effectives and show great stubbornness. But they counter-attack from a losing position of passivity and weakness, in the condition of an increasingly unfavourable relation of forces. Though wanting to counter-attack, they are forced to take defensive measures; though wanting to take the offensive, they have to act on the defensive. Their counter-offensive are marked by a passive character; elements of the defensive are on the increase in their counter-offensive strategy. In their general strategy, they try to counter-attack, but in their strategic direction, on a battlefield and in a given period, they are reduced to the defensive. The trend toward the defensive is growingly patent in their counter-offensive strategy. No wonder that their counter-offensives and offensives are checked by the uninterrupted blows dealt by our offensive, they get battered when and where they are reduced to the defensive. To their great surprise, their strategic position does not improve with the increase of their troops, the counter-offensive force does not grow stronger, their strategic position goes from bad to worse.

Taking the war as a whole and militarily speaking, our initiative, our strength and increasing strength and winning position are our fundamental fortes, the enemy's loss of the initiative weaknesses and setbacks are his fundamental foibles. This is a factor that guarantee that the South Vietnam army and people are able to frustrate all subsequent U.S. strategic plans, achieve ever bigger military successes, however great U.S. build-up may be.

II. WIPING OUT A GREAT PART OF ENEMY FORCES, DESTROYING A LARGE QUANTITY OF ENEMY WAR MEANS AND FOILING EVERY U.S. TACTICS, THE ARMY AND PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM KEEP STEPPING UP THE BUILDING OF ARMED FORCES AND CREATIVELY DEVELOPING UNIQUE FIGHTING METHODS OF THE PEOPLE'S WAR

IN their strategic counter-offensive plans, with a view to wiping out regular L.A.F. forces and destroying revolutionary base areas, the American aggressors have mobilized a big mobile troop strength and launched a series of "search and destroy" operations against key areas in the South Vietnam theatre. Mobile forces from "famed" U.S. units have played the part of shock troops in relatively large deployments in dozens of battles at full division strength or more directed against the areas supposed to be L.A.F. bases in the mountains or in the plains. There have also been hundreds of "sweeps" involving one or several battalions or regiments. The enemy uses up-to-date technique and war means, drops tens of thousands of tons of bombs, tens millions of shells, has recourse to all U.S. tactics, including heli-borne, armour-borne B.52 tactics, great mobility, encirclement tactics, co ordinated operations and what not all this puts such finished looks on the U.S. plan.

The L.A.F. are ready to go into action

With a grim strategic determination, in the offensive and counter-offensive of the people's war, the South Vietnam army and people have concentrated all their forces, resolute to foil every dryseason counter-offensive plans as they defeated the U.S. puppet "digging in the defensive" plan in the rainy season. Holding the initiative, L.A.F. units have intercepted and checked counter-offensives in every theatre, from Eastern Nambo to the High Plateaux of Tay Nguyen and the plains of Central Trung bo, achieved resounding exploits such as at Bau Bang, Long Nguyen, Nha Do, Xuan Son; they have lured the enemy out to fight as at Plei Me, Dong Giap, Tay Ninh, Plei Djrang, East Son Tinh, Highway 9... they have made deep thrusts into enemy lairs, unremittingly striking at cities, airbases, harbours, depots; they have extended guerilla warfare in guerilla belts, against land and river communications, constantly maintaining the enemy in the redoubtable battle array of the people's war. The L.A.F. have skilfully opposed their assets and strong points to the weak points of the Americans, breaking the U.S. and puppet counter-offensive and defensive battelline with the ubiquitous battle array of the people's war. The development of the operations and battles has fallen short of the subjective and erroneous calculations of the U.S. and puppet command. They had hoped to wipe out the L.A.F. main forces; on the contrary, *the U.S. and puppet troops lost a large and important part of military strength**.

The more U.S. troops are poured in, the more they are wiped out, and the more rapidly they are disintegrated**.

On the battlefield, every U.S. tactics — "search and destroy", rescue, *sweeps* to ensure security and defence — as well as U.S. tactical, technical, organizational innovations have successively been checked and have fizzled out. U.S. tactics caught in a vicious circle have been in the throes of a serious crisis and their failures increase with each lesson of experience.

The heavy losses in combat manpower and war means, and the fiasco of U.S. operational and tactical plans eloquently prove that the U.S. "search and destroy" objective — the cornerstone of the U.S. 5-point military strategy — has not been attained.

Meanwhile, the revolutionary forces in South Vietnam have become stronger than ever and the L.A.F. have particularly made unusual progress. The people and the three kinds of armed forces have grown up through the crucible of fire and acquired abundant combat experiences; the regular, regional and guerilla forces have increased in numbers — and what is more important — in combativity, they have developed harmoniously and have been fielded in a fairly rational way. On this basis, the three kinds of armed forces have been able to co-ordinate effectively, closely combine guerilla warfare with large unit actions, and co-ordinate operations in various theatres, with a view to maintaining and developing their initiative and relentless offensive.

While U.S. warlords boast that their military situation has improved and that they have forced the LAF "to disperse and fall back on guerilla warfare" the L.A.F., on the basis of the vigorous expansion of guerilla activities, keep fielding larger and larger units. Annihilation tactics have particularly made rapid progress; at first, the L.A.F. were able to wipe out one U.S. company-sized unit at a time, after a few months they have been able to wipe out one or several U.S. battalions-sized units, infantry and armoured units included, and to wipe out enemy manpower and destroy enemy war materials and ammunitions concurrently.

In their decisive test of strength, the South Vietnam army and people keep improving in a creative way their combat tactics so as to make them more effective, raise them to the level of an original and comprehensive fighting art of the Vietnamese people's war: armed struggle combined with political struggle, three-pronged offensive armed struggle, political struggle, agitation work among enemy troops), coordinated combat tactics, L.A.F. regulars' *punches* on the battlefield and various forms of skilful and flexible struggle.

By annihilating a great part of U.S. military manpower and war means, the South Vietnam army and people have once more **dealt a telling blow at the U.S. will of aggression.**

Through the trial by fire, **the U.S. expeditionary forces have shown many fundamental weak points, and the L.A.F., many fundamental strong points.**

The strength of the enemy lies only in a big troop strength, a strong support firepower and great mobility. But big effectives does not mean strength nor a great mobility of troops with poor combativeness means strength. Finally, the enemy strength lies essentially in his air force and artillery. But a strong firepower cannot make good fundamental weak points and prevent U.S. and puppet troops from being wiped out.

The U.S. expeditionary troops' fundamental weak points have revealed themselves and grown more serious through the engagement with the South Vietnam army and people : a **poor morale, an indifferent command, a deficient operational direction and execution.** The various U.S. technical arms and services have not been able to bring into full play their effectiveness in the Vietnam theatre : U.S. passive and half-baked tactics have been defeated by the offensive and creative tactics of the L.A.F. A salient feature is that U.S. infantry, **very weak, has grown weaker,** in spite of efforts to improve organization, tactics and technique. *AP* (Feb. 4, 1967) was right when remarking that U.S. infantry in Vietnam was only to support air force and artillery.

The enemy weak points are precisely the L.A.F. fundamental strong points. Having no air force and possessed of a weaker artillery, i. e. support firepower, **the L.A.F. have a grim determination to annihilate the enemy; they have a high fighting spirit, constantly neutralize the enemy's strong points, aggravate his weak points to annihilate him.** Fighting in their own land, with the cooperation of their people, they are accustomed to the climate and familiar with the terrain. Promoting to the utmost their initiative, valiant and skilful, they constantly develop the best methods of fighting of their own, creatively applying the various combat forms and tactics of people's war; no wonder that the longer they fight, the stronger they grow and the bigger successes they accomplish in spite of U.S. superiority in manpower and weapons.

It is safe to say that the quality of **the L.A.F. is unquestionably superior to that of their opponents.** On the battlefield, the number of combat troops is very important, but their quality is the decisive factor. Reality has proved that the L.A.F. are fully able to neutralize the adverse numerical superiority with their high fighting capacity, to defeat big forces with small forces. With an unflinching fighting spirit and an expert use of revolutionary and scientific fighting methods, the L.A.F. have turned the enemy's "big effectives" into a "small force", his "strength" into "weakness". They have turned their "small troop-strength" into a big one, increased their strength constantly fostering and maintaining both their combat against the enemy.

* *In 1966 alone, 370,000 enemy troops were put out of action (including 108,000 G.I.s and nearly 10,000 satellite soldiers) involving 17 U.S. battalions of infantrymen, 7 armoured battalions, 79 companies) ; 2,100 aircraft of various types were downed or destroyed ; 3,300 military vehicles (including 1,200 armoured cars) destroyed. In this connection it is to be recalled that in the last 2 months of 1965 the U.S. forces lost 22,000 men ; including 4 infantry battalions and 4 armoured battalions.*

** *Apart from the number of puppet troops wiped out, in 1966 over 100,000 men deserted the Saigon puppet army.*

"THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THIS WAR IS ONE OF AGGRESSION BY THE UNITED STATES!"

At a press conference held on April 14 last in Hanoi, members of the Fourth Investigation Commission of the Bertrand Russell International Tribunal spoke about the crimes perpetrated by the American imperialists in their war of aggression in Vietnam. This followed visits and investigations conducted by the Commission in a number of areas in North Vietnam. We give below excerpts from their speeches.

CHARLES COBB

Central committee member of the S.N.C.C., a revolutionary organisation of the negroes :

... "The innumerable scenes of crimes committed by the U.S. in the D.R.V. most graphically point out the barbarous commitment of the United States to wage war against the Vietnamese people, particularly striking at the social organization of their country. That the U.S. says it is striking only at "military targets", is only a hypocritical facade of words behind which all manner of criminal and genocidal acts are committed, clearly shown through the evidence and experiences of our travels, the travels of others in the D.R.V.

It is important to understand that L.B. Johnson knows that his war is against the Vietnamese people, for it is a world that aspires to, and succeeds in, liberation, that poses the deadly danger to the neo-colonial efforts of the United States. Vietnam, North and South, stands as a shining example of what is possible, no matter how apparently a mighty enemy of liberation might seem.

"I represent a people that have been aggressed against by the United States for 400 years. Within the U.S., we—black people—represent that segment of the world which the U.S. commits criminal acts against daily. We know that if the United States is allowed to continue its aggression against the Vietnamese people in particular, and the world generally, that it will also continue spiraling towards more and more fascist repression of black people, consolidating itself around a kind of neo-nazism at the expense of struggling colonial peoples around the world. Already, we have seen in our neighbourhoods of black America, troops used against us and buildings bombed. Is the next step in America's war against black people, pellet bombs and napalm ?".

JULIUS LESTER,

A negro artist of the S.N.C.C

We know from experience that when Lyndon Johnson talks about freedom, he's forging stronger chains for slavery. When he talks about democracy, he is sowing the seeds of fascism. And when he talks about peace, he is killing more people. If there were a Nobel Prize for lying, Lyndon Baines Johnson would win, and the only competition would be Dean Rusk and Robert McNamara.

"I came to Vietnam a month ago, knowing that if Lyndon Johnson said he was not bombing civilian targets, he was, in fact, bombing every village, church, school, rice-field and water buffalo he could.

"... The Vietnamese and Afro-American people have the same enemy, and neither of us can truly live in peace until this enemy is defeated. I have no doubt that his defeat will come and that the next time I visit Vietnam it will be as a representative of a truly free nation and a truly free people. Today we are allies against U.S. aggression. Tomorrow we will be allies in building a world of nations where freedom does not mean slavery, where democracy does not mean exploitation and where peace does not mean war".

GISELE HALIMI,

Advocate of the Paris Court of Appeal,

(...) Now we must conclude without ambiguity and without euphemism that this war is one of aggression by the United States, there can be no doubt about it.

To this crime of aggression, others should be added, which are the means used in pursuance of the former crime.

We have brought back specimens of the new weapons used by the Americans : anti-personnel bombs loaded with steel pellets, essentially aimed at killing peasants and children, and not at destroying targets of steel and concrete, as claimed by Johnson.

Can all this be identified with the law of war in the late 20th century, the United Nations Charter, the Constitution of the United States, as well as the statutes of the Nuremberg Tribunal ?

The path followed by this country is twofold : to repel American aggression but at the same time to prepare for peace by giving the economy the greatest impetus possible.

To disperse so as to deceive the enemy and preserve human lives, to decentralise so as to make it possible for socialism to progress under all circumstances — such is the great lesson.

The experience is unique, and words suddenly change their meanings.

The Vietnamese people's heroism is not the kind that calls for sham humanist attentions.

The Vietnamese people's heroism is that of a people standing in the van of the struggle waged to change life in face of death sown every day by the aggressor. The Vietnamese people's heroism is that which builds, for them and for us, happiness for each, in peace for all.

MARCELLE CINI,

Professor of Physics, Roma University :

After carefully examining the bomb craters, destroyed

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U.S. AGGRESSIVE WAR IN VIETNAM RUNS COUNTER TO ALL INTERNATIONAL LAW

The New York Times *of Jan. 15, 1967, carried a statement by the Committee of American Lawyers on U.S. policy in Vietnam condemning the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam from the point of view of international law.*

The statement was favourably received by the Vietnamese people including lawyers and other intellectuals. Lawyers Do Xuan Sang and Pham Thanh Vinh have written in the Nhan Dan paper an article welcoming the significant action of the American lawyers and expressing some views on it. Full text of the article is printed below :

FROM THE 16 INTELLECTUALS' OPEN LETTER TO KENNEDY IN 1962 TO THE PETITION OF JANUARY 15, 1967.

IN 1962, when the U.S. imperialists overtly launched their "special war" in South Vietnam, 16 prominent American intellectuals among them three lawyers sent to President J. Kennedy an open letter which emphatically pointed out that U.S. intervention in Vietnam is a flagrant violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

In the following year, a second open letter was sent to U.S. President Kennedy. It bears 65 first signatures of prominent American intellectuals among them many lawyers. In addition to pointing to the U.S. violation of the Geneva Agreements, this letter stated that "the undeclared war has never received the constitutional sanction of U.S. Congress". In other words, the "special war" of the U.S. in South Vietnam is a breach of both international law and the American Constitution.

In August 1965, in the movement of the American people against massive dispatch of U.S. troops and war material to South Vietnam and war escalation against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, a "Committee of American Lawyers for examination of the U.S. policy in Vietnam" was set up in New York with Robert Kenny as its Honorary Chairman and Williman L. Standard as its Chairman. This Committee made public the following juridical conclusions :

In August 1965, a juridical Memorendum entitled : "The U.S. policy in Vietnam in the light of our Constitution, the Charter of the U.N.O., the 1954 Geneva Agreements and the South-East Asian treaty of collective defence". The Memorandum containing the fundamental conclusion of progressive American lawyers, refuted point by point each quibble of the Johnson administration aimed at camouflaging the unjust and illegal character of its war of aggression against Vietnam. Many American youths have used this document as a juridical weapon to oppose conscription. Others declared that in case they were sent to Vietnam they would have all legal and moral right not to fire on the Vietnamese.

— In late 1965, the Committee issued a brief petition making amendments to the Memorandum and raising concrete demands to the U.S. government. This petition was widely distributed among American lawyers, intellectuals and peace militants and received nearly 5,000 signatures, according to the American press.

In January 1966, a letter was sent to the U.S. President urging recognition of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation as a belligerent party.

— In early 1967, a memorandum sent to the U.S. State Department said that the juridical arguments advanced by the U.S. authorities to explain U.S. actions in Vietnam were based on an erroneous description of reality and an erroneous application of law.

— The Statement published by the *New York Times* on January 15, 1967 directly refuted the arguments of Johnson in his State of the Union message. In this message, Johnson claimed that the United States was fighting in Vietnam because of its "commitment" to the S.E.A.T.O. treaty, "aggression" by North Vietnam and the "Korean precedent".

The statement of January 15, 1967 is the newest and tersest document of the American Lawyers' Committee. It comprises the five following points :

1. — The unilateral military intervention of the United States in Vietnam violates the Charter of the United Nations.

2. The military presence of United States in Vietnam violates the Geneva Accords of 1954.

3. — The United States is not committed by the S.E.A.T.O. Treaty nor any other international instrument to intervene in Vietnam.

4. — The intensity and destructiveness of United States warfare in Vietnam is contrary to international law.

5. — United States actions in Vietnam violate treaties which are part of the Supreme Law of the Land, and hence violate the United States Constitution.

All the above points are results of an exhaustive and objective analysis of international law and the law of the United States. They are a rebuttal to the distortions of law by the Johnson clique.

With regard to the plea that North Vietnam is committing "aggression" against South Vietnam, and on this ground the U.S. referring to Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, has dispatched troops to the South and attacked the North, the progressive American lawyers pointed out : "The kind of force allegedly employed by North Vietnam in South Vietnam cannot

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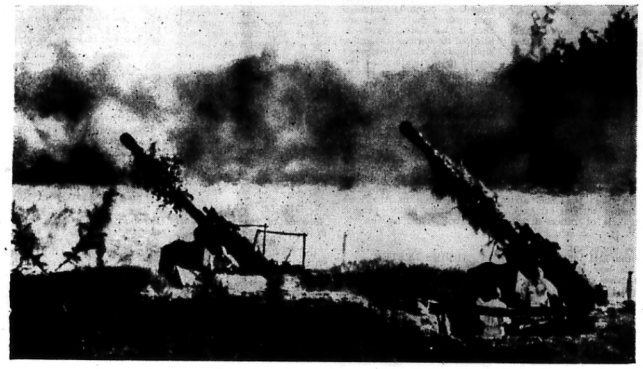
U.S. Air Raid On Populous And Industrial Quarters Of Haiphong On April 20

NEW ESCALATION DULY PUNISHED :

5 U. S. Planes Downed, Many Others Hit



These A.A. batteries have shot down many U.S. aircraft over Haiphong

ON April 20, 1967, the Yankees launched an air raid on the populous areas industrial quarters of Haiphong, the greatest port of the D.R.V., but they were duly punished: 5 aircraft were shot down and many others injured.

After the raids on Thai Nguyen, Viet Tri and Hongay, the big industrial and mining centers, the attack on Haiphong on April 20 was another serious escalation in the U.S. aggressive war against Vietnam. This desperate action of the American imperialists testifies to the difficult situation they are in at present: over one million troops of the U.S., satellite countries and Saigon quislings are disintegrating in South Vietnam, the U.S. dry season counter-offensive is meeting with failure, the quislings are experiencing deeper inner contradictions and the U.S. is now more isolated than at any other time.

The fact that the air strike on the economic and populous areas of Haiphong takes place just when President Johnson is trumpeting his "will for peace" shows how die-hard and bellicose he is! The Vietnamese people energetically denounce to world public opinion this new criminal escalation of the Yankees.

●

Here and There in D.R.V.

MARKET PRICES STABILISED

Over the past two years, in spite of the U.S. war of destruction increasingly striking at the D.R.V. economic centres and the people's living conditions, prices at the state-controlled market, which account for 85 per cent of the whole market, have been in the main stabilized. There has been no appreciable fluctuations at the market at large. At the state-controlled market, prices in 1965 reached 98.9 per cent of the 1964 mark and in 1966 98.7 per cent of the 1965 mark.

(Continued from page 7)

NO factory nor enterprise is left intact at the N.T. industrial centre. Here a roof is sagging, there a chimney is riddled with bullets or bomb splinters. Craters, big and small, dot the ground. But no factory stops working ... the war life goes on smoothly as ever.

Around the construction sites is a vast kitchen-garden. Water lilies and tarots grow in the bomb pits; cabbages, cauliflowers, parsleys, onions, garlics, chilli are planted everyhere, on the shelters, on the parapets of communication trenches, as well as on the edges of bomb pits. Each season had its varieties, in summer like in spring. There are so many vegetables to spare that they are used to make preserves.

Bomb craters have also been arranged to rear fish, which bring a fairly sizable income for after 7 or 8 months' a fish weighs up to one kilogramme.

Every canteen rears hundreds of hens or ducks. Here they are trained in air-raid precautions and know that upon hearing an alert signal they have to run to safety.

Pig rearing enjoys special care because it is the main source of supply of meat and fat. At the power station the cooks tend nearly one hundred hogs apart from over one hundred oxen and fifty goats. All these animals are provided with proper shelters.

At the power station, the G.F.1. factory, the 280-N construction site, each meal usually comprise three or four dishes. Pork, beef, chicken, fish... are delivered each week according to a menu, each ration is more substantial than before the American aggression.

All these achievements have accounted for the understanding between the managing boards and the workers on the necessity to organize their life so as to be able to carry out production and fighting satisfactorily and for a long time and in the first place to implement the motto set by the Vietnam Workers' Party to all localities and units to supply themselves part of their foodstuffs in conditions of difficult transport and distribution. So everybody plants bananas, grows vegetables, fetches weeds for the pigs, and digs shelters for the cattle and poultry.

Another important factor is the devotion of the cooks. At the power station for instance, they were taught about their responsibility and their role in production and fighting. A course for canteen managerial work has been opened and supply of foodstuffs organized by the managing board and trade-union.

As a matter of fact, though this canteen received up to February 1967 over 250 bombs and rockets which destroyed its kitchen, the food was always well prepared. Once the enemy planes hit the rice-pots, launching three raids this day, but the meals were served at usual time.

No wonder that in spite of fierce U.S. attacks, life at the N.T. industrial centre keeps on improving. For the leadership and the trade-union see to it that the workers be well cared for in their political, cultural, technical and professional education as well as in their material life and their pastimes to carry out production and fighting well and for long. As a result, the workers were all the more attached to their factories, to their socialist regime and all the more determined to defeat American aggression.

Vegetables Grown On Bomb-Craters Edges

PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG thanks the American "Spring Mobilization Committee"

Recently, Messrs. Dellinger, S. Lynd, and Mrs B. Deming, from the "Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam", sent a telegram to Premier Pham Van Dong informing him of this massive drive of the American people, Following is the full text of Premier Pham Van Dong's reply:

To Messrs. Dellinger, S. Lynd,
Mrs B. Deming,
New York

Dear friends,

I sincerely thank you for your telegram. I am glad to learn that broad sections of the American people are organizing a "Spring Mobilization" to demand that the U.S government stop its war of aggression against Vietnam and bring American troops home.

We Vietnamese people are very thankful to the American people for their positive efforts against the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam. By so doing they are giving valuable support to the Vietnamese people's struggle for independence and freedom, and at the same time, fighting for their own interests.

The Vietnamese people are convinced that the American people will further intensify their struggle and resolutely demand that the U.S. government unconditionally stop bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V., withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Vietnam, recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs.

With sincere wishes for full success to the "Spring Mobilization" drive.

Cordial greetings,
PHAM VAN DONG

500,000 AMERICANS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR

Hundreds of American Youths Burn Their Draft-cards

IN support of the *Vietnam Week* organized by the Student Mobilization Committee and the Spring Mobilization Committee, on April 15, 400,000 American citizens from all parts of the States came to New York to demonstrate against the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam.

Taking part in the demonstration—the biggest in the history of the U.S.—were students, intellectuals, workers, T.U. leaders, religious believers, peace fighters, white and negro congressmen, coming from such cities as Cleveland, Detroit, Colombus, and Indians from Arizona, South Dakota, etc.

Among the demonstrators were many mothers with their babies and a 9-member family from Ohio. To repress the demonstration, the American authorities mobilized 35,000 policemen and security agents. Early in the morning, despit the rain, the demonstrators met in Central Park and Harlem. Then they marched past the U.N. headquarters, headed by the pastor Martin Luther King, leader of the civil right movement and many leaders of anti-war organizations. Many slogans were put up such as "Children are not born to burn", "Vietnam for Vietnamese", "Bring our boys home», "L. B. Johnson, Dean Rusk, McNamara, war criminals".

Many demonstrators hoisted the South Vietnam N.F.L. flag and carried big portraits of President Ho Chi Minh.

Before leaving the Central Park, nearly 100 youths burnt their draft-cards amidst loud applause from the crowd.

When the demonstrators arrived in front of the U.N. headquarters, Dr. Martin Luther King denounced the war of aggression in Vietnam as illegal and unjustifiable. He said that the crimes committed by the U.S. in Vietnam were severely condemned by the world's people, and urged the American people to give a strong filip to the movement against the Vietnam war.

On the same day, April 15, in San Francisco, 100,000 people held a demonstration on 8km to protest against the war in Vietnam. At a meeting held in the Central Park of the City, the Docker's T.U., one of the biggest T.U. organisations in the U.S., issued a resolution sternly condemning the U.S. war in Vietnam. At the same time, Julian Bon, a well known negro leader and other personnalities condemned this injust war and called on the American people to oppose it. American observers said that it was the biggest demonstration ever held in that wertern city of the U.S.

Demonstration in front of the U.N. headquarters in New York.

In Support of the American People's Struggle Against the Vietnam War

DEMONSTRATIONS OF PEOPLES OF VARIOUS COUTRIES IN THE WORLD

JAPAN

The "Vietnam Peace Committee" of Japan held a big meeting in Simjuadan Park (Tokyo) under the slogans "End the Vietnam War" and "Withdraw U.S. troops from Vietnam".

At the meeting, Mr. Taro Okamoto, a well-known Japanese personality declared "Our aspiration is clear and we repeat that we demand the end of U.S. air raids on North Vietnam, the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. We sternly condemn the use of Japan and Okinawa in the Vietnam war".

CANADA

A delegation of Quebec people took part in the huge demonstration in New York under the slogan, «Vietnam for Vietnamese", "End the collusion of Canada in the war". In many other cities demonstrations against the war in Vietnam also took place. In Toronto and Montreal, the demonstrators marched past the American consulates in support of the American people's struggle for an end to the U.S. war in Vietnam.

BRAZIL

Over 600 people demonstrated in Rio de Janeiro against the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam.

ITALY

Hundreds of youth in Turin demonstrated against the U.S. war in Vietnam. Another meeting was held in a locality near Palermo where warships of the 7th Fleet were lying at anchor, A Stars and Stripes was burnt.

FRANCE

In Paris a demonstration took place in which slogans opposing the U.S. war in Vietnam were chanted.

GREAT BRITAIN

American residents in London held a demonstration in which they carried in front of the American embassy a coffin covered with an American flag as a protest against the U.S. war in Vietnam.

SWITZERLAND

The peace fighters organized a traditional spring march from Bienne to Bernes (32 km) under the slogans condemning the U.S. war of aggression against Vietnam. 2,000 demonstrators participated in the march and arrived in Bernes despite police repression. Many youth marched to the American embassy in Bernes shouting, "U.S., quit Vietnam", "Johnson the murderer", and burnt the portrait of Johnson near the American embassy.

The demonstrators then met at the biggest square in Bernes and passed a resolution demanding an end to the bombing of North Vietnam and that the Vietnamese people should be let free to decide their own destiny.

ARAB COUNTRIES

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers and the Association of Arab Lawyers sent to the U.S. Spring Mobilization Committee to end the war in Vietnam, a telegram voicing their admiration for the heroic struggle of the force of peace in the U.S. demanding that the Johnson administration put an end to the Vietnam war; supporting the petition of the Spring Mobilization Committee demanding the end of U.S. bombing of North Vietnam and stressing that the action taken by the Committee was an important contribution to the world peace movement against the U.S. aggressive war in Vietnam.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLES (Apr. 19-25)

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER IN THE FRONT LINE AGAINST U. S. IMPERIALISM

ON April 19 this year the people in many countries in the world opened the week of solidarity with and support for the Latin American peoples in their struggle against U.S. imperialism and its henchmen. The week is of great significance as it is launched on the anniversary of the Giron beach victory.

Six years ago, on April 19, 1961 the heroic Cuban people smashed the military adventure of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys by a wonderful counter-offensive for 72 hours on the Giron beach. The historic Giron victory is one of the most brilliant military exploits of the heroic Cuba people, and at the same time a common victory of the national liberation movement, especially the movement against U.S. imperialism in the Western hemisphere. With this resounding victory, the Cuban people, dauntless and indomitable, have eloquently testified to the fact that a small nation living next door to the U.S. imperialists, but closely united and led by a Marxist-Leninist political Party, and endowed with a correct revolutionary line and a determination to struggle and enjoying sympathy and support from the world people will certainly win victory.

That is why, the Giron victory not only has defended the Cuban revolution but also has strongly stimulated the struggle for national liberation in Latin America to surge up in a new mettle.

Within a short period since the Giron beach went down in history, many changes have taken place in Latin America and have stirred up mankind. The free island of Cuba in America continues to advance powerfully on the road of socialist construction and has made much more progress in the development of economy, culture and education and in the consolidation of national defence. In Latin America, the flames of armed struggle in Venezuela, Guatemala, Columbia, Dominica, Peru, Bolivia... are fanning up while the struggle of the workers in towns is mounting. Despite all measures taken by the U.S. imperialists and their flunkeys to repress, persecute, split and undermine the movement, the Latin American people never part from their fighting banner. The Venezuelan liberation armed forces have many forms of activities. Despite repeated attacks by the enemy, the liberated zone of the Columbian militia peasants is maintained. The Dominican patriotic forces have pledged themselves to wage a protracted armed struggle till complete victory. Since the middle of last year, in face of the powerful growth of the armed struggle, the Peruvian guerilla forces have set up a supreme joint command to lead the movement all over the country. Early this year, together with the political struggle, the armed struggle of Bolivia has developed so strongly that the reactionary administration must proclaim "state of emergency" throughout the country.

Standing in the front line against the U.S. in Southeast Asia, the people and armed forces of our country are profoundly moved at the news that every patriotic action in Latin America is imbued with proletarian internationalism. The movement of "production for the sake of fighting Vietnam", of the Cuban people, the "Nguyen Van Troi" operation of the Venezuelan guerillas, the seething demonstrations of the Uruguayan people holding the flags of the D.R.V. and the South Vietnam N.F.L. and the slogans urging the U.S. to quit Vietnam at a time when Johnson and his vassals were holding the Punta Del Este conference, all these activities deeply move our army and people as a whole.

Welcoming the week of solidarity with Latin America, we will spearhead our struggle at the U.S. aggressors fire accurate shots, record many new feats of arms, regarding this as a warm welcome to the struggle of our valiant brothers in Latin America.

HANOI TRIBUNE

THE D.R.V. PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT CONDEMN THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES' ATTACK ON SYRIA

"ON April 7, 1967, the Israeli reactionary authorities, henchmen of the U.S. imperialists, sent aircraft and tanks to carry out repeated attacks on the Syrian territory. This brazen provocative act of the Israeli reactionaries was duly punished by the Syrian army and people: 5 aircraft were shot down, 2 tanks destroyed, more than 70 Israeli soldiers killed and hundreds of others wounded, and a U.S. air pirate was captured.

In "retaliation" for this defeat, on April 8 Israeli reactionary authorities vilely sent 72 aircraft to drop 1,000 explosive and napalm bombs on five villages of Syria, killing many women and children.

As everybody knows, the Israeli reactionary authorities — a tool for aggression of the U.S. imperialists in the Middle and Near East — have over the past years repeatedly committed provocations against surrounding Arab countries in an attempt to oppose the Arab countries movement for independence. Particularly since January 1967, they have brazenly conducted many premeditated military attacks on the Syrian territory, encroached upon the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic and massacred its civilian population.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam indignantly condemn these brazen provocative acts of the Israeli reactionary authorities, and demand that they stop at once these acts. The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam fully support the just struggle of the people anp Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their Fatherland and are convinced that the fraternal Syrian people will certainly win glorious victories.

Statement of the D.R.V. Foreign Ministry spokesman (April 18, 1967)

Here and There in the D.R.V.

(Continued from page 4)

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The following are a few figures concerning the results scored in the medical and educational fields.

Medecine:

In 1930 there were 47 hospitals throughout Vietnam. In 1966 North Vietnam had more than 700 (as compared with 480 in 1964).

The number of newly trained doctors has been steadily increasing:

in 1930: there was 1 doctor for 180,000 people

in 1965: there was 1 doctor for 8,000 people

and in 1966: there was 1 doctor for 6,800 people

Despite war conditions 90 per cent of agricultural co-ops have their own medical teams, Thanh Hoa province, which has been badly hit by U.S. planes and warships, had 20 more district hospitals in 1966, i.e. 10 times as many as before the American expanded war escalation to North Vietnam.

Education.

With the 1966-1967 academic year the number of faculties and institutes in the D.R.V. has been brought from 27 to 35, and the number of students from 35,363 to 46,427 in comparison with the previous year.

In general education, the current school year witnesses the admission of 2,500,000 pupils into primary schools, 810,000 into elementary schools and over 100,000 into secondary schools. On the average 10 out of 100 people attend general education classes. In complementary general education there were 1,200,000 pupils in 1966 from primary to secondary classes. Under bitter fighting conditions some villages in Thanh Hoa province have put forth the motto: "We attend classes even under the bombing". Cam Binh village (Cam Xuyen district, Ha Tinh province) keeps promoting general education. 56 percent of the population (1,700) go to school. There are 13 kindergartens, 8 pre-school establishments, 15 primary and 6 secondary schools, and 30 forms for junior and senior secondary complementary education.

Of late President Ho Chi Minh commended 1921 outstanding pupils and 120 teachers for their achievements in the 1965 — 1966 school-year. Those were pupils noted for their behaviour, study, physical culture, and productive labour. As for the teachers they had been awarded the title of elite workers, distinguished themselves by their professional competence and enjoyed the approval of most of their colleagues in their own provinces or towns.

LIGHT INDUSTRY 1967 FIRST QUARTER PLAN OVER-FULFILLED

Light industry enterprises have topped the market by their 1967 First quarter plan on different items of importance. Many reached more or less than one-third of their annual plan.

In the textile industry, cotton-material making surpassed the target. With regard to other goods such as underwear, cotton blankets, towels, sewing thread, the plan was fulfilled from 100 to 106.8 per cent.

In the food-processing industry, tea, alcoholic drinks, vermicelli, toffees exceeded the quarterly target by at least 7 per cent. In particular, pea-nut oil increased by as much as 186.8 per cent.

In the making of such commodities as plastics, aluminium and enamel-wares fountain-pens, pencils, ink, soap, electric cells, the increase registered by centrally-run enterprises was from 3.7 to 53.8 per cent.

In the wood-processing industry production exceeded the plan by 14 per cent.

She buckles down to her production work to fulfil her plan under any circumstances

FOR THE AMERICAN PRISONERS' FAMILIES

To: Mr. FRANK GARNER WOODS
Rural Free Oclivery
Garden City, Missouri
U.S.A.

Hi Dad,

I have been given this opportunity to say hello and wish you, Mom, John, and the rest of my relatives and friends a most happy New Year. You should be receiving a letter from me soon plus a New Year's card. I sure hope that all of you had a grand time during the holidays. I was given Christmas and New Year's treats which were very nice. I'm praying to see all of you soon.

Love,

ROBERT DEANE WOODS
Lieutenant, R No 632730-VA 25, wing 2, *Coral Sea*
Captured on Oct. 12, 1966 in Thanh Hoa province

U.S. Aggressive War in Vietnam...

(Continued from page 3)

appropriately be regarded as an "armed attack" within the meaning of Article 51".

About the plea of U.S. "commitment to the SEATO Treaty the progressive American lawyers made clear that contrary to the misleading explanation given by the U.S. State Department, Article 4 (1) of the SEATO Treaty as well as the Treaty as a whole does not create any obligation for the signing parties to take military actions. Except the United States itself "none of the other SEATO parties regard military intervention in Vietnam as legally required by SEATO".

On the so-called "commitments" taken on by 3 U.S. Presidents to give military assistance to the puppet administration in South Vietnam, the statement said: "It is strange legal logic retrospectively to construe these carefully guarded offers of limited assistance as commitments for military intervention".

The progressive American lawyers pointed out that the U.S. had violated the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam. It quoted a Special Report of June 2, 1962 by the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam as declaring that the United States had "increased military aid" to South Vietnam and that the U.S. "factual military alliance" with South Vietnam violated the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

THE CONCLUSIONS OF AMERICAN LAWYERS COMPARED WITH THE JURIDICAL POSITION OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

WE hail the carefully done work of the progressive American lawyers. We know that in the present conditions of the United States and in the framework of an open democratic struggle, such conclusions constitute notable steps forward and a valuable support to the just struggle of our people. In this struggle, justice is on our side, hence we have a strong legal case whose merits spring from the sacred fundamental national rights of our people which have been existing since our country was founded, namely independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The victory of the August Revolution led to the "Proclamation of Independence" of the R.D.V. After the victory of our first war of resistance, the international Geneva Agreements signed in July 1954 solemnly recognized our sacred fundamental national rights: independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. The Geneva Agreements ban all foreign intervention in Vietnam's internal affairs. In the current fight against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, these fundamental rights and the juridical effects therefrom have been reaffirmed in the four points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the five points of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation.

Proceeding from the same juridical basis, President Ho Chi Minh wrote in his letter of reply to U.S. President Johnson in February 1967: "Vietnam is thousands of miles away from the United States. The Vietnamese people have never done any harm to the United States. But contrary to the pledges made by its representative at the 1954 Geneva Conference, the U.S. Government has ceaselessly intervened in Vietnam, it has unleashed and intensified the war of aggression in South Vietnam with a view to prolonging the partition of Vietnam and turning South Vietnam into a neo-colony and a military base of the United States. For over two years now, the U.S. Government has, with its air and naval forces, carried the war to the D.R.V., an independent and sovereign country".

There is no clearer and no less refutable case.

Vietnam has for centuries been a unified country. Therefore, it makes no sense to say that the Vietnamese commit aggression against Vietnam and even less sense to say that there is a "civil war" in South Vietnam, because the administrations in South Vietnam — from Ngo Dinh Diem to Thieu-Ky — are mere creations of the U.S. and represent nobody except themselves and their U.S masters.

It can be affirmed in this context that by committing aggression against South Vietnam and launching a war of destruction against North Vietnam, the U.S. has violated the 1954 Geneva Agreements and defied international law and the Constitution of the U.S. itself. There can be no other legal conclusion than that "the U.S. government has committed war crimes, crimes against peace and against mankind" (President Ho Chi Minh's letter).

It can be added that the U.S. Government is also guilty of attempted "genocide" as stipulated by Articles I to VI of the international convention of December 9, 1948, because it has plotted and actually committed acts of annihilating certain national groupings in South Vietnam. If the U.N. Charter signed by the U.S. President on June 26, 1945 and ratified by the U.S. Senate on July 28, 1945 is part of the "supreme law of the land" (of the United States) by virtue of Article I, Paragraph 2, Provision 2 of the U.S. Constitution, one must regard for the same reason the Charter of the Nuremberg Military Tribunal which is an annex to the London Treaty of May 8, 1945 on the punishment of the Nazi war criminals as part of the "supreme law" of the United States.

On the other hand, while the U.N. Charter is an important international convention which acknowledges or stipulates valuable principles of international law, the United Nations, like all other international organisations, can exert its jurisdiction only over its members and can in no way style itself a world organisation. Many countries are not members of the U.N.O. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam for one is not a member of the U.N.O., so the U.N.O. has no right to intervene in the Vietnam issue, let alone its Security Council, in so much as the U.N.O. has long become an instrument of the U.S. imperialists and the majority of its membership.

If the January 15, 1967 statement has been prompted by the above indisputable factual and juridical considerations, it would not have committed some mistakes or let inadequacies creep into its argumentation. For instance it describes the conflict in South Vietnam as a "civil war" and has not taken a firm attitude vis à vis the Saigon puppet government. The statement has come to a half-baked conclusion by recognizing the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation as possessing a belligerent status hence a negotiating status equal to that of the Saigon regime".

In a memorandum on the aggressive character of the war waged by the United States in Vietnam, a well-known Japanese lawyer, Academician Yoshitaro Hirano, Vice-President of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, cited 3 international criteria for an administration to be established legally or recognized as legal: independence, actual power and continuous existence.

It is clear that the Saigon puppet administration does not meet these criteria, especially now that the National Front for Liberation is controlling four-fifths of the territory with more than 10 million people hence is unquestionably the sole and authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people.

In addition, due to a misunderstanding of the juridical competence of the United Nations as well as of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam, the statement of the progressive American jurists proposes the co-operation in replacing U.S. military forces with personnel of the I.C. Referring to Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, it even proposes the use of armed forces without seeking authorization from the Security Council as if this Council had the right to authorize an armed intervention in South Vietnam, which is a completely erroneous view.

War Protest Growing ...

(Continued from page 8)

are pocketing handsome war profits, try to drown the voice of justice of Baca, Richard Steinke, Lawrence Baldauf and others. But mankind's history has proved that no force on earth can smother the voice of reason. For American servicemen, sons of those who fought for 8 hard years (1775-1783) to free themselves from British imperialists' rule and to found the United States of America, such a situation as described above cannot go on.

The South Vietnamese people's fight for national liberation has been achieving big successes and is heading towards final victory. American servicemen and people will see more and more clearly the unjust nature of this aggressive war and will have their final say.

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TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT...

(Continued from page 3)

houses, and other evidences, and after questioning direct witnesses of those bombings, the Commission is in a position to assert that in all cases studied:

a) The targets chosen by American airmen were populous centres wholly devoid of all strategic or military character and located far from all targets having such character;

b) Means and weapons employed were aimed at causing maximum losses in human lives.

The method used consists, in almost all cases, in combining their use in such a way that the destructive effects of explosive bombs on buildings are accompanied by the murderous effects of anti-personnel bombs (fragmentation bombs with thin walls, pellet bombs), rockets and cannon and machinegun fire. One of the typical cases is that of Dinu Tan village, Yen Dinh district, Thanh Hoa province (January 29, 1967).

The Commission has also tried to collect evidence on U.S. attacks on water conservancy works in the provinces visited.

These attacks must also be considered as direct attacks on the civilian population inasmuch as they aim at provoking famine, through the destruction of the irrigation network, and floods, through the destruction of dykes and dams.

The Commission visited Do Luong dam, attacked by U.S. aircraft on April 2 and 3, 1967. This dam supplies water to an irrigation network serving 80,000 hectares.

We also examined the damage caused by the bombing of January 29, 1967 of the dyke on the left bank of the river Ma (Dinh Tien village, Yen Dinh district, Thanh Hoa province). Craters dug by 68 bombs of 1.5 tons each were 20 metres in diameter and 9 metres in depth.

FRANCIS KAHN,
Professor of the Paris Faculty of Medecine.

Concerning the health centres in the two provinces we have visited, it has been reported to us that 29 of them (specialised hospitals, general hospitals, district hospitals, infirmaries, infirmaries-maternity homes, pharmacies) were attacked and destroyed by the Americans between February 1965 and December 1966.

I was able to check the total or partial destruction of the Vinh T.B. hospital, located in open country near a pagoda and a school (themselves also destroyed), of the Vietnam-Polish Friendship Hospital, which was being built in Vinh and had already been marked with a Red Cross on its roof; and of the Thanh Hoa hospital (a provincial hospital).

However, I would like to lay particular stress on the case of the Quynh Lap leper hospital.

On the night of April 6-7, 1967 as we travelled on the road pockmarked with bomb and shell craters which led to the hospital, my companions told me about the building of that leper-hospital, a veritable little town in which 2,600 lepers had lived, had been cared for and had received education. It was marked with a clearly visible red cross. The 160 buildings that composed the hospital were distributed over several square kilometres. From June 19 to 21, 1965, following reconnaissance flights made over a period of two months, Quynh Lap was attacked 13 times and entirely destroyed: 139 dead and over 100 wounded among the lepers, such was the price the local health authorities paid for their confidence in the well-known health character of this establishment.

I saw that green and silent valley, and the entirely destroyed buildings, including the hospital, the church and cultural installations. I was able to see that for kilometres around there was no other building, and no other road. I was able to make sure that the sandy beach would not provide refuge for any vessel.

MILITARY SITUATION IN FIRST HALF OF APRIL:

AMERICAN TROOPS HEAVILY DEFEATED AND ALWAYS ON THE DEFENSIVE

IN the first half of April 1967, what warrants attention was U.S. ticklish decision to move the 196th Light Infantry Brigade from East Nam Bo to Chu Lai. Next came the dispatch of several 2nd Brigade battalions, U.S. First Air Mobile Cavalry, to join the 2 U.S. marine divisions. Finding such troop reinforcements still inadequate, Westmoreland planned to erect a "fortified barrier" about 50km long South of the demilitarised zone.

There is no denying the fact that the American troops have sustained big defeats on the Quang Tri — Thua Thien battlefields. The victories won by the L.A.F. early in March in virtually destroying 5 U.S. companies in the Gio Linh area (Mar. 1-3) and wiping out 1,500 G.I.'s on Hill 241 in the Cam Lo area (on the night of Mar. 6) were still echoing when on the night of April 5 and at dawn on April 6 they put 1,845 more enemy troops out of action and held Quang Tri provincial capital for 4 hours running. Only a week later, before dawn on April 13, they slammed mortar shells into this provincial capital and blew up 2 bridges, barely 1.5km from the city, causing many enemy casualties.

Although the Americans have mustered on this narrow battlefield covering the 2 provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien their 1st and 2nd marine divisions and their 26th marine regiment plus puppet Division Ohe, yet they have been unable to escape successive defeats. As they have been spread thin and beaten everywhere by the L.A.F. and have suffered considerable loss of manpower, U.S. marines and puppet troops now find themselves impotent to counter further blows. This time, they willingly consent to accept the help of the infantrymen and cavalrymen Their manpower shortage is all too evident and U.S. passivity on the South Vietnam battlefield as a whole is hard to conceal.

Attention is also drawn to the fact that the L.A.F. have made larger and deadly effective use of the weapons in their possession, especially heavy guns. The most resounding battle in recent days was the shelling on the night of April 2 of the base camp of the U.S. 11th Amoured Regiment South of Xuan Loc town. Bien Hoa province. According to first reports by *G. P. X.* (Liberation Press Agency) the L.A.F. killed or wounded more than 1,000 G.I's, destroyed more than 200 military vehicles of different types, mostly tanks and APC's, 30 artillery pieces and 34 planes, and set 80 tent barracks on fire.

On the night of April 11, Chu Lai airfield came under another attack. The enemy admitted that 38 U.S. marines had been killed or wounded and many aircraft destroyed or damaged in this L. A. F. attack. The U. S. artillery position 12 km North-west of Hon Quan, Thu Dau Mot province, also received a barrage of heavy gun fire on the night of April 8. This shelling cost the Americans 200 casualties and 4 105-mm and 155-mm howitzers and many armoured cars destroyed. Other positions, such as the headquarters of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division in Cu Chi (Apr. 10) and the Tu Ha base in Thua Thien province (Apr. 6), were also bombarded in this period.

In particular, the mining of the 12,000-ton oil tanker *Amastra* at Nha Trang port on April 12 clearly indicated that no place, thought to be safest by the Americans, is invulnerable to L.A.F. punitive blows.

In addition, the L.A.F. also attacked and wiped out many enemy troops in other areas:

— On April 13, 400 puppet saigon were killed in action and 4 planes brought down in Phung Hiep district, Can Tho province.

— On April 10, one company of Pak Jung Hi mercenaries was wiped out in a L. A. F. surprise attack on their encampment in Phu Yen province.

— Before dawn on the same day, another L. A. F. surprise attack on a military post in Quang Ngai province virtually destroyed 2 companies of puppet troops:

As for the cruel agents self-styled "pacification cadres" the L.A.F. are always ready to give them due punishment wherever they perpetrate crimes notwithstanding they are protected by U.S. and satellite troops in the outer perimeter. Late in March, at a point barely 4km from Saigon, 37 of them, including a lieutenant team leader, were wiped out (on the night of Mar. 23). Earlier, on the night of Mar. 14, at a village 3 km South of Saigon the living quarter of "pacification" cadres was heavily shelled and many of them were killed or wounded. On the night of Mar. 11, a training centre for cruel "pacification" agents in Quang Ngai province was destroyed in only 5 minutes with 130 of the trainees killed or wounded. On the night of Mar. 20, a number of such agents employed for the arrest and torture of the inhabitants in a locality 1km from An Lo base, Thua Thien province, were also punished. More than 1,000 detained persons were set free, and 125 detention houses burnt.

In short, as their dry-season strategic counter-offensive is drawing to a close, the Americans are finding themselves in face of even greater failure and inaction. With the sending of reinforcement to relieve U.S. marines in the northernmost part of South Vietnam contrary to their expectation, the Americans will be having hard days ahead because of the increased isolation and predicament facing the 2 brigades of the U.S. 4 th Infantry in the Western Highlands or the state of siege in which units of the U.S. 9 th Infantry are finding themselves in the vast expanse of the Nam Bo Delta. The heavier their setbacks, the more barbarous American troops are. The so-called "fortified barrier" they plan to set up along Highway 9 in the Northern part of South Vietnam, is nothing but a massive evacuation and regroupment of the people and a transformation of a populated area into a free kill zone. The aggressors have already resorted to such atrocious weapons of war as toxic gases, napalm and phosphorous bombs. They have already erected security belts around Chu Lai and Da Nang bases. But all that has proved of no avail. Just as the previous measures have failed to save them from defeats, the "fortified barrier" can in no way keep them safe from the L. A. F. punitive blows.

WAR PROTESTS GROWING AMONG GI's IN SOUTH VIETNAM

ONLY five months after their landing in South Vietnam, U.S. troops could witness some protest action within their own ranks by officers and men who opposed the war the U.S. U.S. administration had forced them to fight in a land more than 9,000 miles from home. Compared with the former French expeditionary Corps which had also come to Vietnam to kill people, burn houses and destroy crops, such war protests occurred much earlier. In 1965, over 20 anti-war actions took place in the ranks of the U.S. expeditionary corps.

Following the 1965-1966 dry-season offensive, more and more GI's came out against the aggressive war.

On April 24, 1966, three members of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. First Infantry, who disobeyed their commanders' order to go on a raiding mission in Tay Ninh province, were shot. This incident shocked many of their buddies.

On May 9 and 14, two more anti-war cases were reported in this same brigade. Many American servicemen who were also forced by their commanders to commit crimes refused to obey the latter's order. The first incident ended with 30 GI's arrested. But what was most shocking for this unit was that 4 American servicemen had committed suicide, of whom 3 Negro GI's had jumped out of their flying helicopter. The second incident took place in a different way. A clash broke out between those GI's who refused to go raiding and those who obeyed the commanding officers, of whom 7 were punished.

Also in May and in the same brigade, many infantrymen firmly kept off an operation against an area of Ba Ria province, and destroyed equipment and food issued to them. One of them burned himself with kerosene to denounce the dragooning of the men by the commanding officers into actions repulsive to their conscience.

While increasingly realizing the inhuman nature of the war of aggression conducted by the U. S. government, American servicemen have also become aware of the tragic fate which is in store for them as the L.A.F. are winning bigger and bigger victories. As a matter of course, many collective anti-war actions undertaken by whole companies or whole battalions have occurred in quick succession in the U.S. expeditionary corps. For instance, in May and June 1966, 5 cases were recorded in the U.S. 25th Infantry Division. On May 8, a company of the 2nd Brigade refused to take part in a raid on Duc Hoa district, Cholon province. On May 10, a 2nd Brigade battalion took a similar action, and another battalion refused to be stationed in Hiep Hoa district (Cholon). On June 10, another unit of the same brigade which was committed to a raid in Duc Hoa district fasted to press for their return to Cu Chi. On June 19 and 20, forty U.S. officers and men of a battalion which disobeyed a battle order, were arrested.

War protests are growing among G.I.'s and in all U.S. divisions. Some cases have had repercussions far and wide, such as that of 8 G.I.'s stationed at a village of Dien Ban district, Quang Nam province who refused to go raiding and consequently were manhandled by their commanders. Exasperated, all the 8 men took their own lives. The sentencing of private A.R. Weber to one year's imprisonment for his refusal to kill Vietnamese people has produced adverse effects. When pleading for himself before the U.S. Army military tribunal in Cu Chi on June 11, Weber made clear that not only had he the right to ignore Captain J.R. Carry's order, but he also regarded his disobedience as a duty towards himself and towards mankind.

In the ranks of U.S. military officers, Lt. Commander Lawrence Baldauf of Atugi base, Tokyo, who was court-martialled in San Diego because he had refused to be involved in this criminal bloodshed and demanded his discharge, or Lieut. Junior Richard Steinke of Milwaukee, Wiscousin, who protested against the U.S. war of aggression, is a source of pride and is equal to the tradition of struggle of the U.S. combatants of 1,776. The words, "This war isn't worth a single American life" R. Steinke said before newsmen express a truth more and more G.I.'s get to know ever more clearly.

The case of Private Baca of California has thrown more light on the real motive behind U.S. policy of aggression. Unwilling to commit crimes against the Vietnamese people and to be turned by capitalists into a tool for profit making he deserted his post and roamed about for 40 days. Arrested and disarmed on July 18, 1966 at an inn, he spoke out his thought. Hardly had he finished his words when the American officers shot him.

American brasshats, stooges of American capitalists who

(Continued page 7)

The L.A.F. before H hour

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